



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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## Tri-County Consortium Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The Tri-County Consortium met in Helena on Wed., Nov. 26. Sheriff Scott Howard, Project Director, began the meeting with a discussion of tower sites.

Motorola will be installing trunked equipment at Cominco beginning on Dec. 1. Tom Smith, Northrop Grumman, met with the general contractor on the Limestone Hills site. The Environmental Assessment (EA) study and soil analysis have been performed on the site. Bill will set up a meeting in Townsend to coordinate with involved parties, such as commissioners, school district members, law enforcement and public works. Construction will begin in the spring after the NEPA is approved. The contractor visited Bull Mountain and has provided pricing for work needed at the site. A request for a 100-foot tower is being submitted to BLM. The Sabre Tower contractor also has visited XL Heights and will be providing price comparisons for repairing facilities at the site versus purchasing replacement facilities. Bill Fleiner emphasized the importance of the Boulder Hill site for meeting Jefferson County's communications needs.

Frequency needs and planning were discussed. Garrett Fawaz, Dept. of Corrections, gave an update on programming and installation of new subscriber units and repeaters. He reported that the Motorola programming training that DOC sponsored on Nov. 20 was very successful. Members then discussed the status of the consortium's FEMA Assistance to Fire Fighters grant application.

The next Tri-County consortium meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Wed., Dec. 31 at the Dept. of Corrections Annex Building conference room, located behind 515 N. Sanders.

## IM Governance Committee

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The Interoperability Montana (IM) Governance Committee (IMGC) met in Helena on Monday, Dec. 1. IMGC Chair Bill Fleiner began the meeting with sub-committee reports. Cindy Mullaney, Bylaws Sub-Committee Chair, reported that an e-mail was sent to Executive Committee members detailing items that need to be addressed as part of the annual bylaws review. Under the legal counsel report, Bill indicated that the Wirth Ranch agreement is still under negotiations. George Gupton, Staffing Sub-Committee Chair, reported that the system administrator and project manager position applications will be reviewed by committee members on Dec. 12.

Bill also reported that Management Resolution meetings are still taking place to address BNSF contract issues, the Northern Tier system manager proposal, and the Harris-Stratex Northern Tier contract close out. Training Sub-Committee Chair Kerry O'Connell reported that the fleet mapping work session in Kalispell went well. Plans are to shorten the training, set dates for upcoming sessions, and develop a site manager course module.

The committee spent a good deal of time reviewing the latest draft of the Sustainability Plan. Another work session is scheduled for Dec. 29 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm at a location to be announced. Conference calls are planned to discuss and obtain all necessary attachments.

Bill announced that he is a planning section chief for an earthquake exercise planned for Helena in Sept. of next year that will utilize the IM communications system.

The next IM Governance Committee meeting is set for Monday, Jan. 12, 2009 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm at Dept. of Corrections Annex Bldg., located behind 515 N. Sanders in Helena.

## IM Project Directors Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD) met in Helena on Tues., Dec. 2. IMPD Chair Alan Michaels began the meeting with presentation by Mark Canton, Motorola, on the status of Northern Tier trunking installation. He reported that eight sites now have wide-area trunking and preliminary testing is very positive.

Committee reports were given. Sheriff John Walsh, IM Finance Chair, reported on Decision/Information Requests (DIRs) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Motorola Maintenance Proposal. Irene Bushnell, Anderson ZurMuehlen (AZ) provided a report on Master Project Funding Sources and accounting processes and said that new lodging reimbursement rates are now being used. Bob Murdo, Legal Counsel, gave an update on the Wirth Ranch lease agreement as well as progress being made on the purchase of a communications site in Jefferson County. Bill Fleiner, IM Governance Chair, provided the most recent copy of the draft Sustainability Plan, and additional input was given.

George Gupton, Staffing Sub-Committee Chair, stated that applications for the System Administrator and Project Manager positions closed today and screening will begin Dec. 2. About 30 applications have been received for both positions. Kerry O'Connell, Training Sub-Committee Chair, reported



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that the fleet mapping training went well in Kalispell and plans are underway to prepare Site Manager workshops and radio use training.

Bob McWilliams, IM Technical Committee (IMTC) Chair, said that progress is being made on the 5-year plan and it should be finalized by the Dec. 22 IMTC meeting. Committee members reviewed several DIRs as well as details of Motorola's 2<sup>nd</sup> year maintenance proposal. Members also held a special conference call regarding the three proposal sites for the second master controller. During the call, IMTC members determined that none of the sites were optimal, and are now exploring other options. Technical representatives are being asked for additional ideas.

The IM board of Project Directors amended and adopted the latest draft of the IM Communications Site Development Process document and approved several DIRs. Scott Bradford, Frequency Sub-Committee Chair, gave an update on licensing progress and Mark Adams, Northrop Grumman, reported that the next phase of Northern Tier acceptance testing will begin next month. A two-week tour of the Northern Tier microwave system was recently completed, and punch list items were created. The new Status Report was just issued.

Under New Business, the directors adopted a meeting schedule for 2009 with based on meetings taking place the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the month, rather than the first. The directors extended their appreciation to Chris Christensen for all his hard work and assistance on the IM Project and congratulated him on his retirement.

The next IM Project Directors meeting will be Tues., Jan. 13, 2009 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) Large Conference Room, 2717 Skyway Drive in Helena.

## South Central Montana Interoperability Consortium

By E. Wing Spooner [espoon@mt.gov](mailto:espoon@mt.gov)

The South Central Montana Interoperability Consortium met in Livingston on Wed., Dec. 10. Chair Peggy Glass began the meeting with introductions and county reports. Peggy reported that the Myer's Flat site is built and site walks are scheduled next week. Madison County is in the process of obtaining an easement to the VC Pass site for power. Gallatin County reported that he visited the Timberline site the other day with an electrician to investigate the power upgrade to a 200-amp service. Kerry O'Connell reported that work is still taking place on Greycliff. The soil sample report is complete, but NEPA approval might not be obtained until next spring. Work is

continuing on the Statement of Work for the site.

Kerry also reported on the most recent IM Technical Committee (IMTC) meeting and updated the group about Gallatin County microwave issues. IM plans to purchase software to be able to perform remote monitoring of the microwave system. The IMTC reviewed and updated the five-year build-out plan, too. Kerry also reported on the last IM Project Director's (IMPD) meeting and indicated that financial reports were provided that contained much-needed detail of funding sources, amounts spent by consortium, etc.

The next SCMIC meeting will be held at the Carnegie Library, 314 McLeod St., in Big Timber on Wed., Jan. 21 at 10:00 am

## Upcoming Meetings

### Dec. 17

Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Working Group  
Great Falls • 10:00  
Great Falls Police Dept., 112 1st St S.

### Dec. 17

Eastern Tier (ETIC) Consortium  
Glendive • 10:00 am  
Dawson County Courthouse Community Room  
207 West Bell

### Dec. 18

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium  
Butte • 10:00 am  
Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce  
1000 George St.

### Dec. 19

IM Contract Management Sub-Committee  
Helena • 9:30 am - 1:00 pm  
MACo Building # 2  
Small Conference Room, 2717 Skyway Drive

### Dec. 22

IM Technical Committee (IMTC) Meeting  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
MACo Building # 1  
Large Conference Room, 2717 Skyway Drive

### Dec. 23

IM Finance Committee Work Session  
Helena • 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Anderson & ZurMuehlen • 828 Great Northern Blvd.

### Dec. 29

Sustainability Plan Work Session  
Helena • 11:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Location is to be announced

### Dec. 31

Tri-County Consortium  
Helena • 10:00 - 12:00 pm  
Dept. of Corrections Annex Conf. Rm.  
Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

### Jan. 7

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)  
Great Falls • 10:00 am  
Wheat Building, 750 6th Street S.W.